

**7th Grade English/Language Arts**

**Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Sloan**

**2013-2014 Syllabus**

In the four units we cover, we will focus on these 8 standardized concepts based on our Common Core Standards for 7th grade ELA…

* Key Ideas and Details
* Craft and Structure
* Integration
* Argumentative Writing
* Narrative Writing
* Informational Writing
* Grammar Conventions
* Vocabulary

**Unit 1 – Narrative:** This unit focuses on fictional texts, text structures, and the ability to construct a written narrative. During this unit, students will be exposed to various short stories and will do a book study on the young adult novel, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

**Unit 2 – Informational:** The unit focuses on informational (non-fiction) texts, text structures, and the ability to construct a research paper. The students are exposed to multi-cultural events and will do a book study on *Witnesses to Freedom: Young People Who Fought for Civil Rights* by Belinda Rochelle.

**Unit 3 – Figurative Language:** The unit focuses on descriptive/figurative language that can be found in all types of literature. Students will be exposed to various poems and short stories and will do a book study on the young adult novel, *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick.

**Unit 4 – Argumentative:** This unit focuses on argumentative texts and the ability to construct an argumentative essay. The student will be exposed to various scientific concepts and will read a variety of scientific texts.

**Grading**

Our classroom will be assessed using a 4-point scale. Students will be given assignments, which act as pieces of evidence, that are used throughout the unit, to build a case for how well they have learned the standardized concepts. Activities that may be used include, but are not limited to:

* Hands on activities
* Projects
* Group work
* Technology related activities
* Informal conferencing
* Classwork
* Assessments

The 4 - point scale is as follows:

4 – Expert: Student has mastered this concept

3 – Proficient: Student understands the concept

2 – Emerging: Student kind of gets it, but still needs help to fully understand

1 – Novice: Student does not understand this concept

In grade book the grade for each standardized concept will depend on what level the student has proven his/herself to be, based on the evidence provided. The grading scale is:

4-100

3-89

2-74

1-60

Students ALWAYS have the opportunity to show they have improved on a standardized concept.

**Incomplete assignments/make up work**

Students will be required to do many activities. Not all activities are included in grade book. However, these activities are how our students practice, and increase their knowledge. This is how students are able to build their case to demonstrate level of proficiency on a standardized concept. Any work that is not completed or turned in will be done on the school’s designated make up days.